

Minutes from the WeCAN Meeting held at Westfield City Hall Assembly Room on
December 1, 2009 at 7 pm.

Disclaimer: I hope you will find these notes helpful. They are not a complete representation of the meeting, but rather the highlights of topics discussed. Feel free to contact me at Westfield City Services Building (317) 804-3002 if you have any questions. -TH

December 1, 2009

Agenda

I. Announcements

II. Legislation Committee Update

III. South Union Streetscape – Part of the Grand Junction Master Plan

IV. Closing Announcements

I. Announcements

State of the City Video posted on the [City homepage](#).

Trash/Recycling Holiday Information

-[Ray's](#) will provide unlimited trash collection to the City Contracted Residences for the two weeks following December 25th. This service is provided for the sole purpose of removing holiday related trash (i.e. boxes, gift wrapping paper, etc.). They do not have to be in approved overage bags, just normal household bags.

Ray's has asked that the bags be next to the trash carts if it will not fit into the trash cart. This is not a free for all for heavy, or bulky items or a garage clean out, but only unlimited household garbage.

To answer a question from the last WeCAN meeting, Christmas trees that are set out with the trash carts will mostly end up in the landfill/incinerator. The Christmas trees and the household garbage will be picked up with a rear loading truck and will not be separated.

-With Christmas and New Year's Day falling on a Friday this year, Ray's Trash will pick up these Friday customers on the following two Saturdays. All other customers will be on their regular trash pick-up day.

Trash/Recycling Satisfaction Survey

We are approaching the end of the first year of Citywide Trash/Recycling Services and would like to hear the opinions of our valued residents. The [Survey](#) is linked on the [City homepage](#) as well as on the [WeCAN page](#). It would be great if you could put the information on your webpage, in your newsletter or even just an email. The feedback will help the City to determine future needs as well as let Ray's know what they are doing right and what they can be doing better. The survey will be open at least until the end of 2009.

Participation Needed to Win the Westfield-Washington Fire Department \$10,000

Last WeCAN Meeting we gave you information on the available grant. We still need the participation of you and your residents to secure the grant. Please get the word out to have everyone visit the [BeFireSmart website](#) and click "Get Started". The deadline is December 21st. 6 grants will be given to those in our "Medium" Division so we have a good chance if everyone will fill out the brief survey.

Remember to get your kids involved with the children's fire safety videos and then the children's quiz. These could save the lives of your young ones in teaching them what they need to do in case of a fire whether at home or away.

Street Survival

The BMW Club is holding another [Street Survival School](#) for teens on April 25, 2010 at North Central HS. The primary emphasis of the training is a "hands-on" driving experience in real-world situations. They use your own car to teach you about its handling limits and how you can control them. They also teach how to deal with driving where there are no shoulders, where the road drops off.

Sidewalks and Connectivity

There is a partnership between neighborhoods and the City for any neighborhood that would like to put in sidewalks/trails to increase connectivity with the existing pedestrian paths. The City will match the neighborhood for 50% the cost of materials and labor to asphalt the path. The cost of the retaining wall and other features that are requirements to put in the path are the sole responsibility of the neighborhood. Merrimac has taken advantage of the partnership, along with Centennial, to connect both neighborhoods to 146th Street to allow access to the Monon Trail. On a side note, current plans call for 161st to go over US 31 so the fact that the Monon is on the top of the hill before 161st dips down shouldn't be an issue in the future.

Round-A-Bouts

The number of signs on the 151st and Carey round-a-bout was questioned by some residents. Mayor Cook explained that the signs are necessary because of the way the road curves; you need one yield sign facing the approach and another once the road curves. The round-a-bout signage will be consistent throughout Westfield, therefore lessening confusion. The reason that the signs may look different is that the signs are brighter yellow.

The landscaping on the round-a-bout is going to be better, but not as elaborate as our neighbors as that would cost much more and decrease the safety of being able to look across the round-a-bout for potential oncoming traffic.

Holiday Events

The holiday season will officially begin this weekend in the City of Westfield. Festivities will begin on Saturday with a visit from Santa. A tree lighting celebration and a live nativity will take place on Sunday. The community is encouraged to bring your families to enjoy the festivities.

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Santa will be greeting children at the Westfield Farmer's Market parking lot on Saturday, December 5 and Saturday December 12 from 11a.m. to 2p.m. The tree lighting celebration will also be in the Farmer's Market lot at 6 p.m. Sunday, December 6th.

The Westfield Relay for Life Committee is partnering with the City of Westfield and will be stationed at the Santa House to take pictures of children with Santa (\$5), and they will also be selling hot chocolate, coffee and luminaries to raise awareness for cancer research. The Relay for Life will take place May 21-22, 2010.

In addition, the Amanda Strong Food for the Needy will have a food drive at the Santa House. Amanda strong FFTN has been going for over 30 years here in Westfield.

The second annual tree lighting ceremony will be Sunday at 6p.m. and there will be caroling and free refreshments. Following the tree lighting ceremony, there will be a Live Nativity in Hadley Park, across the street from the Farmer's Market lot. Visit www.dwna.org for event information.

II. Legislation Committee Update

Ron Rothrock, Chair of the Legislation Committee, gave a presentation on past and future actions of the Committee. Ron thanked Wayne Eells for putting together the [Committee Report](#) and [Committee Presentation](#).

The Committee has plans in the future to hold informational seminars on board basics, finances, and covenants at the least. They will also meet with individual HOA boards when requested. A site will be designed to answer many of the common questions facing HOAs.

In addition, the Committee will work with the different levels of government as well as other communities to see if any processes can be streamlined.

III. South Union Streetscape – Part of the Grand Junction Master Plan

John Rogers, Director of Enterprise, spoke about the projects in Westfield. The projects have not completed the design phase so some of the information and dates may change. As you will see outlined below, everything is not going to happen at once. It will be the City putting in a little investment and waiting for the private investment. Phase 1 Streetscape complements the JC Hart Apartment Complex, Union Flats, which will be in that area.

South Union St. Streetscape Project (Phase 1)

The project will focus on the West side of Union and will feature a sidewalk/trail that starts at Jersey St. and connects to the Natalie Wheeler Trail. There will be rain garden/stormwater features that enhance the aesthetics of the street and serve a functional role in keeping water away from underneath the road, thereby reducing the cost of repairs of the road in the future. Once the construction starts, it is expected to take 120 days. Construction is expected to be completed by Fall 2010. The stormwater features will decrease the number of parking spaces on the West side but those spaces will be more than offset with the expected added parking along both sides of Mill St. and Jersey St.

South Union St. Streetscape Project (Phase 2)

The East side of Union St. will be a more complicated project. The utility lines will have to be buried underground. The City is already working to coordinate all the players involved to plan for 2010 construction. There is no parking planned for the East side.

Jersey St. (Phase 3)

The design is not complete, but the idea would be that Jersey St. could be closed off and have more of a market/square look. There could be cobblestone or something to that effect. The Farmer's Market or other event could be held in that area. Jersey St. would also be the backside of a large park area.

Grand Junction Area

The park setting would be West of Union St., South of Jersey St. (1st street South of Main St./SR32), and East of Mill St.

Midland Trail

The Midland Trail will go through the Grand Junction Area. The Council has already approved the building of the Midland from Carey Rd. to Union St. Through some research, Mr. Rogers found a group in Indiana that relocates old bridges that aren't being used to locations where they are needed. If that fits with our needs, the bridges could then be used on the Midland. Construction should start in the spring.

Library?

There is no word yet if the Library will move downtown.

Regional Detention Pond?

There will probably not be room for a large regional detention pond in the park, it would be located elsewhere. It is more likely that there will be a small water feature in the Grand Junction Area such as a winding brook.

IV. Closing Announcements

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, January 26th. Shaena Reinhart, Urban Conservationist and Certified Wildlife Biologist with Hamilton County, will speak on Backyard Conservation Programs at the January meeting.

Check the WeCAN page for announcements – Currently posted is information about the City of
Westfield H1N1 Clinic for Priority Groups on December 12, 2009

The meetings in 2010 will again be on the last Tuesday of each month.

Happy Holidays! Hope to see you in January!